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provided by the suppliers, and for optimizing a delivery process discovered using the system for analyzing the supply chain, the system adapted for use on a computer or network of computers, the system comprising.

a graphical interface system comprising at least one template having a pre-arranged supply chain representation, the supply chain representation configured to provide information about the supply chain in a format oriented to a particular viewpoint of a user or participant in the supply chain, and a stencil including a plurality of iconic representations of elements for inclusion in the supply chain representation.

Remarks

The application was filed with Claims 1-19. In response to a restriction requirement, Applicant made a provisional election of claims 1-12 for examination, with traverse. Claims 13-19 were withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. Applicant hereby affirms the election of claims 1-12.

By the foregoing amendments, Claims 1-12 and 20 remain pending in this application. Reconsideration and reexamination of the claims is respectfully requested in view of the following comments.

In the Office Action, the Drawings and Specification have been objected to, and claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). The rejection of claims 1-12 is respectfully traversed.

Drawings and Specification

In light of the foregoing amendments to the specification, and the marked up drawings attached, Applicant believes the objections to the drawings and specification are moot. Each objection has been addressed. Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kenney et al. (US 6,121,965) in view of Bhaskaran et al. (US 6,157,915). Each of these rejections is respectfully traversed. Even if combined, these references do not reach Applicant's claims.

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Kenney discloses a CAD tool program having a blank workspace within which a system can be constructed using a set of commands, tools and icons. The set of commands, tools and icons available to the user is predetermined by the type of system the user will be constructing.

Bhaskaran discloses a supply chain coordination system in the form of an active collaboration technology that delivers information and decision support tools to a community of role players within a supply chain process. The information and decision support tools delivered to the community of role players is in textual form.

In contrast, Applicants' independent claims 1 and 7 require a computer implemented apparatus including a template for supplying a workspace to depict the supply chain, icons predefined to depict factors of the supply chain, and a stencil for storing the icons. Neither Kenney nor Bhaskaran disclose a computer implemented apparatus including a template for supplying a workspace to depict the supply chain, nor do they disclose icons predefined to depict factors of the supply chain and a stencil for storing the icons.

Dependent claims 4 and 10 further require at least one perspective template providing a pre-populated framework to evaluate the manufacturing process. Neither Kenney nor Bhaskaran disclose a perspective template providing a pre-populated framework for evaluating the manufacturing process.

Dependent claims 5 and 11 require at least one stencil selected from the group consisting of process flow stencil, logistics stencil, and environmental stencil. Dependent claims 6 and 12 require that the perspective stencil of claims 4 and 10, respectively, be selected from the group consisting of international template, logistics template, supplier template and supplier process template. Neither Kenney nor Bhaskaran disclose a process flow stencil, logistics stencil, environmental stencil, international template, logistics template, supplier template, or supplier process template.

In addition, there is no motivation to combine the references. Kenney deals with a computer program for constructing a graphical representation of a system, such as an electronic circuit, from a set of pre-defined icons. Bhaskaran deals with an interactive, network-based supply chain coordination system that involves the exchange of information on a textual basis.

In light of the foregoing remarks, claims 1 and 7 should be considered allowable, and withdrawal of the rejection and reexamination and reconsideration of claims 1 and 7 is courteously solicited. Claims 2-6 and 8-12 depend either directly or indirectly from claims 1 and 7 and should

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be considered allowable for the same reasons that claims 1 and 7 are allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-6 and 8-12, and reexamination and reconsideration of the claims is courteously solicited.

Conclusion

From the foregoing, Applicants submit that the claims are allowable over the references of record in this application, and reconsideration of the claims and passage of the application to issue are courteously solicited. If a telephone conference would expedite allowance or resolve any further questions, such a conference with the undersigned is invited at the convenience of the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 11-7-02

CIMS 483-02-19

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ATTACHMENT FOR SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS
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Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 17 of page 7 to read as follows:

Figure 3 depicts a supplier process perspective template 50 and a stencil 10. The supplier process perspective template generally depicted at 50, has a workspace pre-populated with icons forming a supply chain map 70. The icons are selected to pre-populate the template based on the area of interest of the user. For example, if the user is interested in process control, the critical supply chain icon which represents factors that impact cost, quality, and cycle time regarding process control, pre-populate the template. In the preferred embodiment, the supply chain map 70 is for a finished part 66.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 3 of page 8 to read as follows:

The finished part 66 is downstream in the supply chain map 70. Raw materials, suppliers, processes, and component that are inclusive in producing a finished part are provided upstream relative from the finished part. Raw materials, suppliers, processes, and components flow in the supply chain from left to right.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 7 of page 8 to read as follows:

With a continued reference to Figure 3, the supply chain map 70 shows three tiers of

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suppliers tier three suppliers 56, tier two suppliers 54 and tier one suppliers 52. Downstream from each of the supplies are processes 58. Inspection measurements 60 are located throughout the supply chain map [51] 70.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 17 of page 8 to read as follows:

Each of the suppliers 56(b) is associated with a process 58(b) located downstream. Each of the processes 58(b) connects to a second tier supplier 54(e). The components that flow from each of the third tier suppliers 58(b) to second tier supplier 54(e) create a bottleneck 62. The bottleneck 62 indicates potential problems in the supply chain.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 1 of page 9 to read as follows:

Each of the second tier suppliers 54(c), 54(d), and 54(e) are associated with processes 58(c), 58(d), and 58(e), respectively. A first tier supplier is associated with each of the processes 58(c), 58(d), and 58(e). A process 58(f) is associated with [second] first tier supplier 52. An inspection measurement 60 is associated with process 58(f). A finished part 66 is associated with inspection measurement 60. The finished part then moves in the supply chain map to dealer [68] 67 and then to customers [70] 68.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 17 of page 10 to read as follows:

Figure 9 illustrates a sequential computer screen display flow chart depicting the operational

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sequence for the preferred embodiment. Computer screen display 92 identifies the part 104 in the supply chain map. Computer screen display 94 identifies the components 106 in the assembly. For each component, the supplier, supplier location and part number is identified by textual information placed within the icons. Computer screen print 96 indicates the processes 108 that each part must go through before it reaches the next supplier in the supply chain map. Computer screen display 98 indicates transportation 110, border crossings 112. Computer screen display 100 identifies inspection measurements 114. Computer screen display 102 identifies part storage 116, lead time 118 and bottlenecks [120] 119. Information template 20 is accessed through a hyperlink of individual icons 12.

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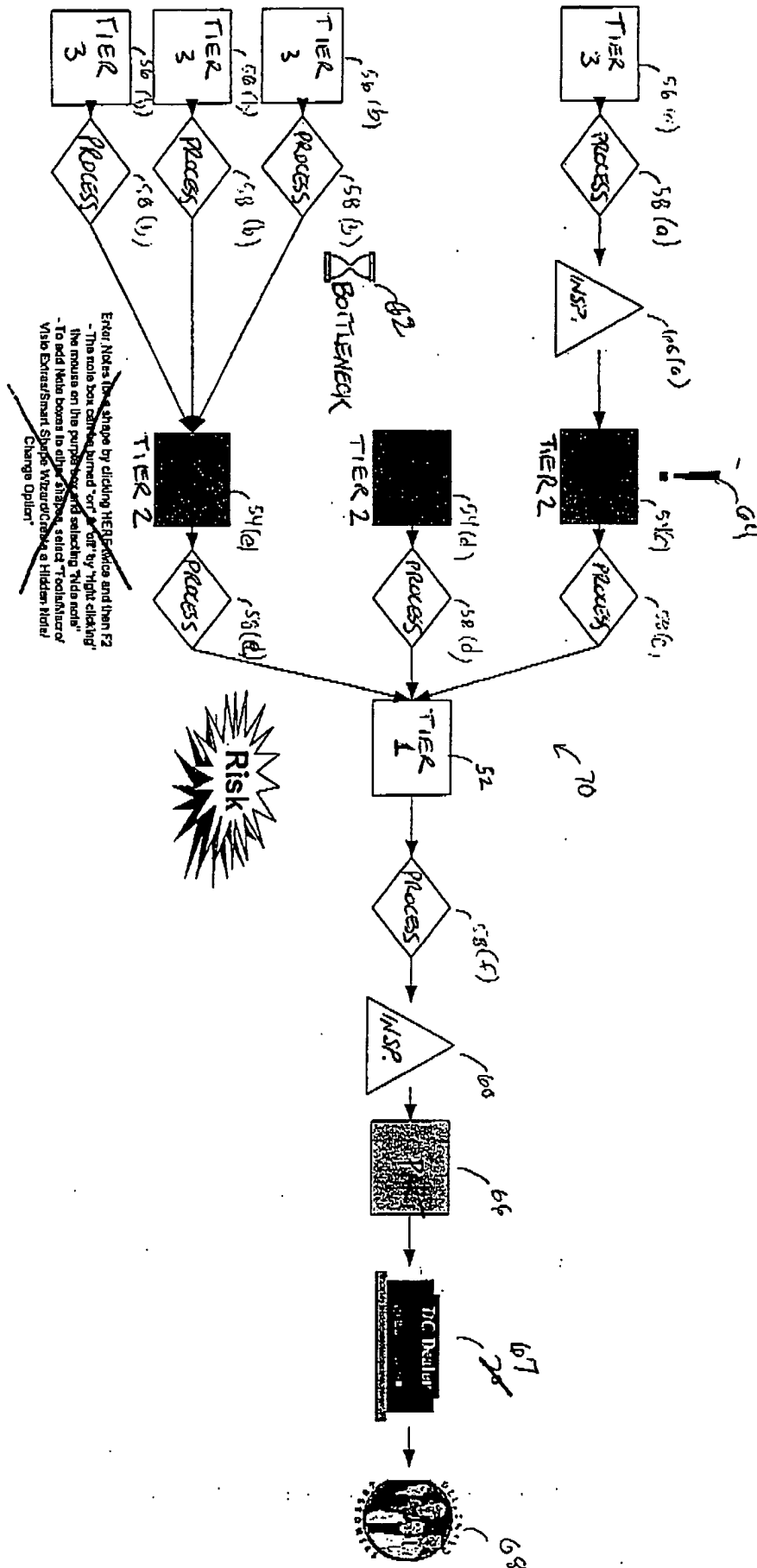


Fig 3

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Drawing3		

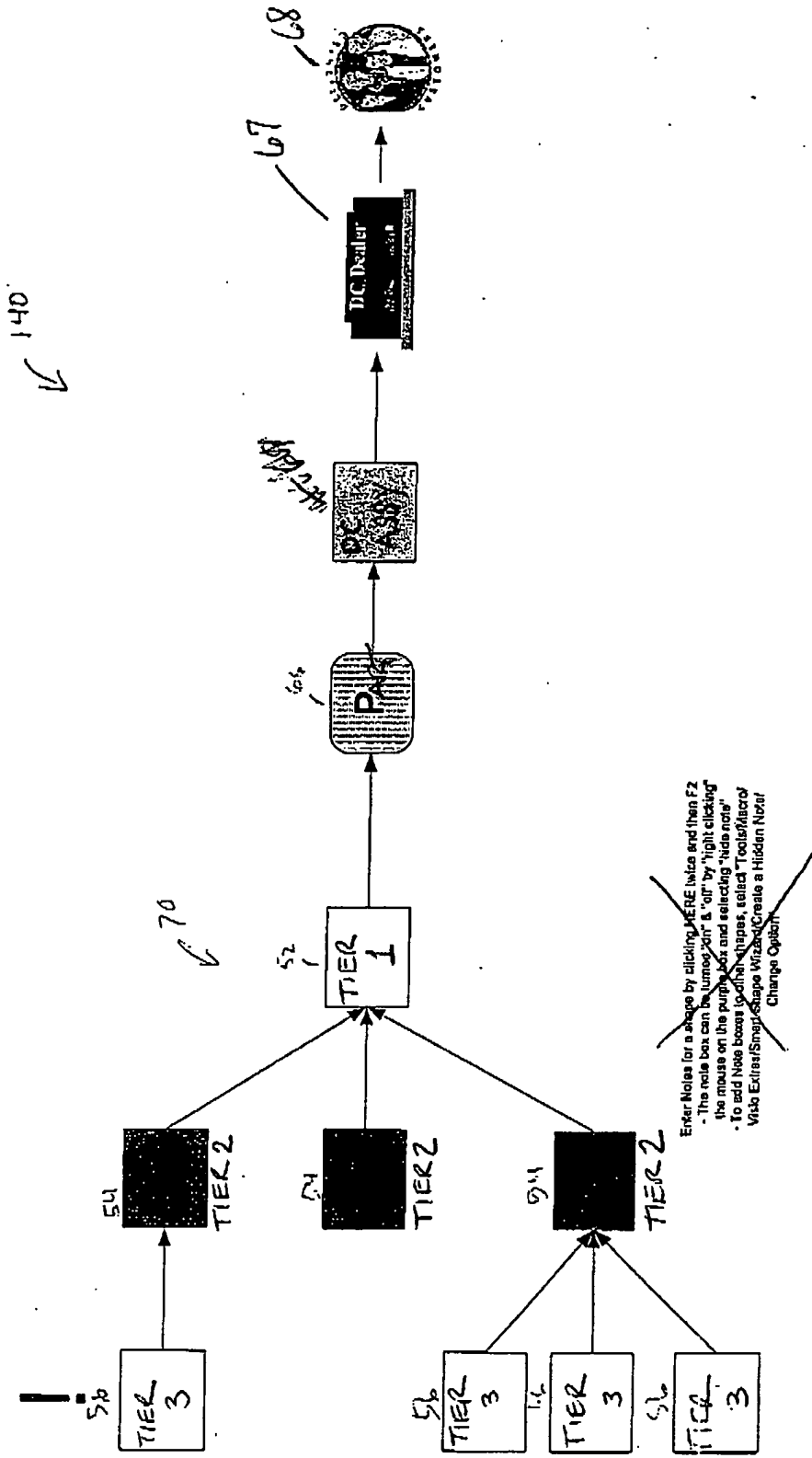
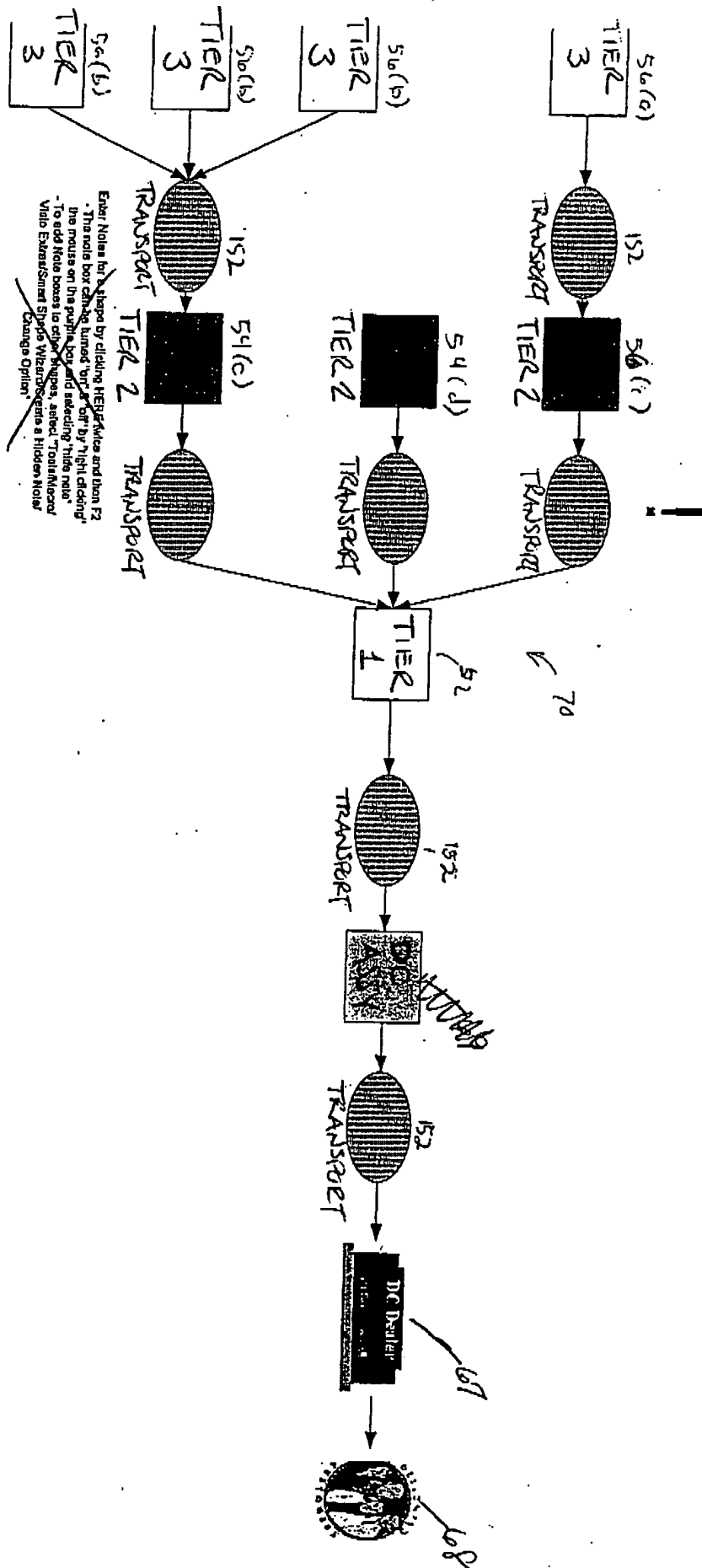
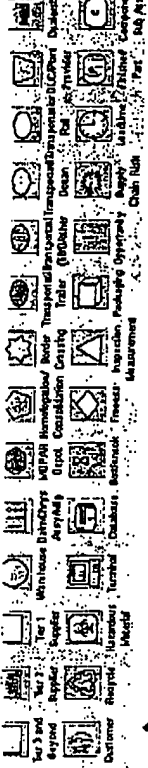
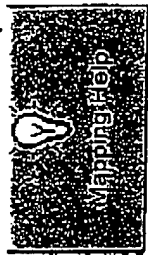


Fig 4

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 - The role box can be turned "on" or "off" by "right clicking" the mouse on the purple box and selecting "Hide role"
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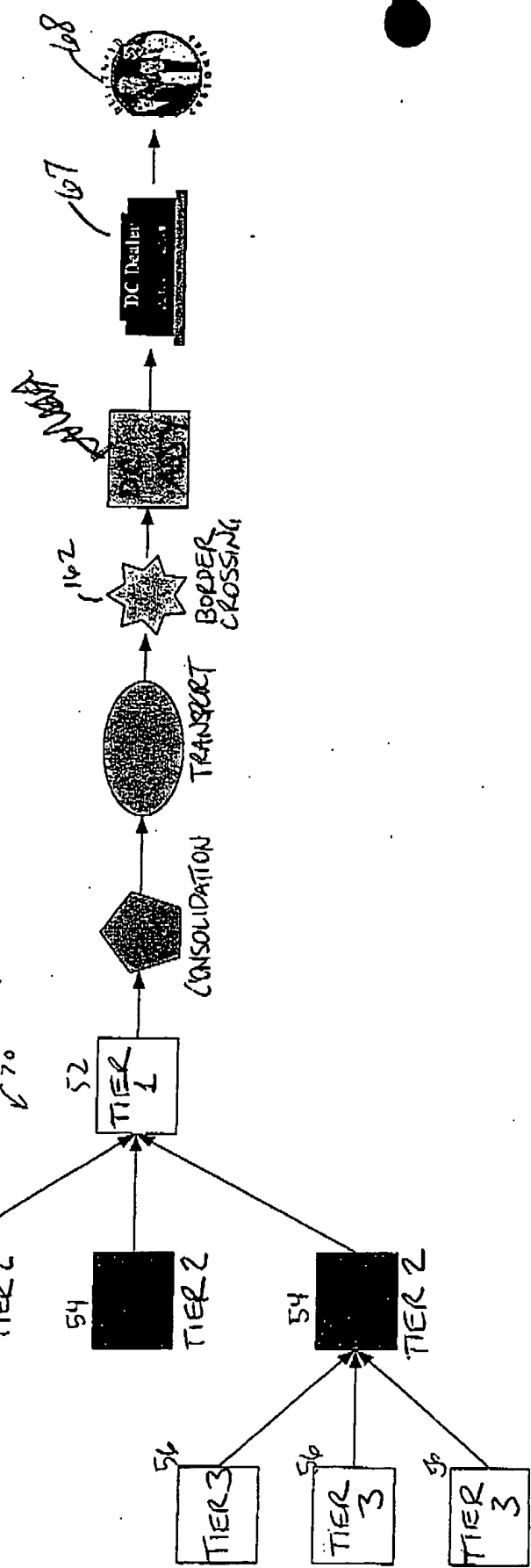
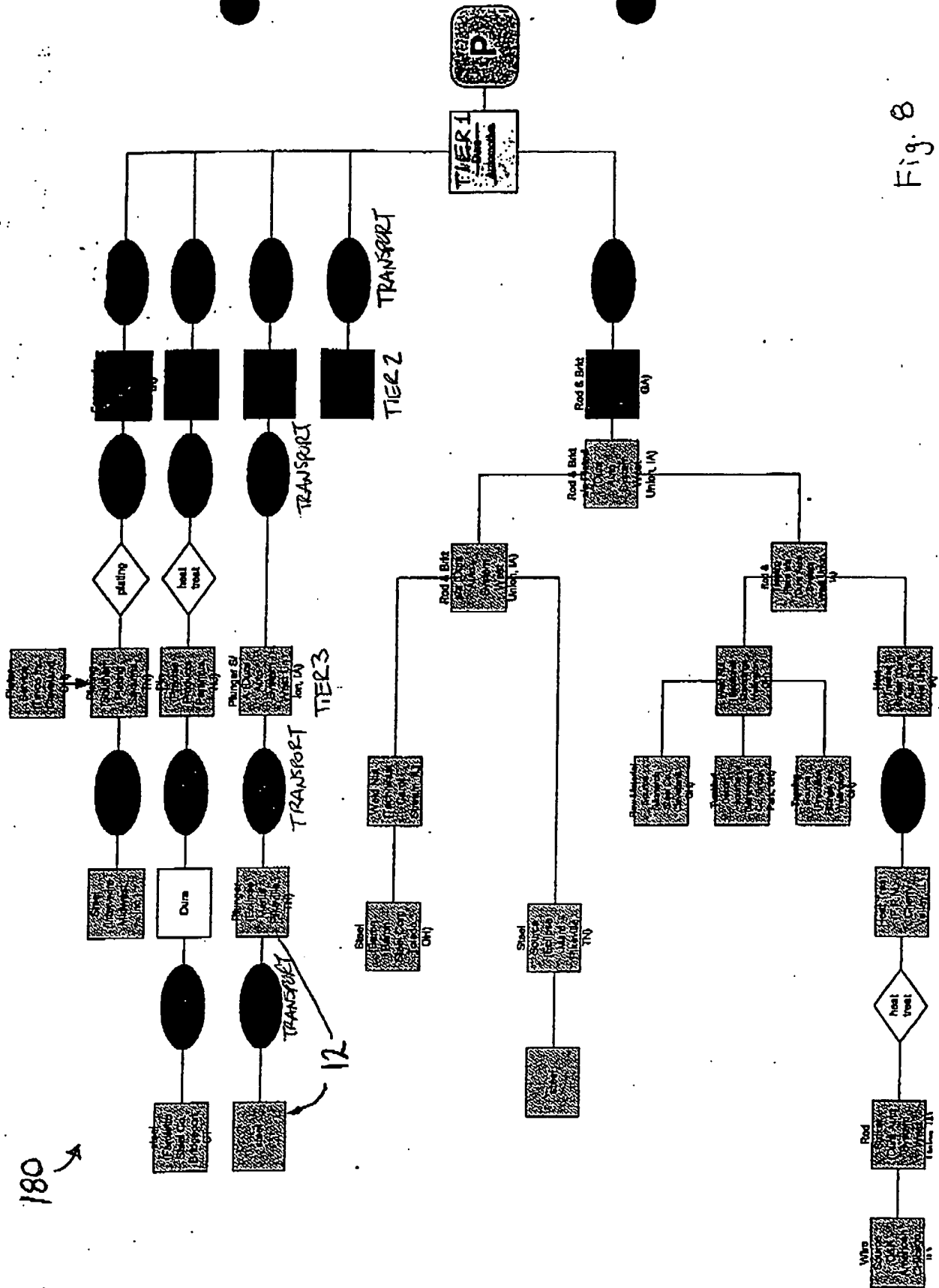


Fig 6

COMPANY: Dura Automotive CREATOR:
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- 7) Additional information can be added to further develop the supply chain map including a supplier's quality rating or dates that key inspections have or will occur. This can be included on the map or hyperlinked through an Excel or Access document

[illegible]

** TOTAL PAGE.15 **